inventors have been granted the freedom of filing outside the country at any point of time, without waiting for the additional period of six weeks for seeking the prior approval of the Central Government.

(c) and (d) Government is not aware of any such case. However, patents are granted by respective Governments under their patent laws and no information is being maintained about patents being taken on Indian system of medicines.

Indo-Myanmar Trade Treaty

1145. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of infrastructure development of the Indo-Myanmar trade treaty;

(b) whether government are aware that the new infrastructure of Myanmar near our border town Moreh had been completed and is functioning more properly than that of our old existed infrastructure; and

(c) whether Government are aware that the said trade agreement has lost our earlier advantage in trade?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The Indo-Myanmar Border Trade Agreement signed in 1994 does not specifically provide for infrastructure development in.

(b) Government of India have established optical fibre cable link between Moreh and Imphal and this link has been put through for traffic even though some test are being carried out. Further, expansion of existing telephone exchange capacity at Moreh has been planned for the current year which is likely to be completed by December, 1999. With a view to facilitate border trade with Myanmar, the Government of Manipur have taken adequate measures to improve infrastructure in Moreh. Empowered Committee on Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme (CIB) has decided to sanction an amount of Rs. 70 lakhs for the development of external roads in Moreh.

(c) No Sir. India's exports to Myanmar during the year 1998-99 were of the order US$ 1.20 million as against imports of US$ 0.91 million from Myanmar through the border route.